

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, claims 1 and 15 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 17 and to recite a surface layer laminated to at least one of the surfaces of the core layer and made of a light transmitting resin. Claim 2 has been amended to recite that the surface layer contains a light diffusing agent. Section 112 support for the amendments to claims 1, 2 and 15 is found, for example, in paragraph [0009] and Figs. 5 and 6 of the specification. Claims 16 and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 18, 19, 21 and 22 have been amended to depend solely from claim 15. No new matter has been added, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5-9, 15 and 18-24 will be pending.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 23 and 24 are allowed.

In paragraph No. 3 of the Action, claims 1, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Blieske et al (US 7,368,655).

In paragraph No. 4 of the Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Kim (US 6,836,303).

In paragraph No. 5 of the Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by McCollum et al (US 7,108,414).

In paragraph No. 7 of the Action, claims 2, 7-9, 15, 16 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Blieske et al in view of Takeuchi et al (US 5,944,405).

Initially, since the PCT application of Blieske et al was filed November 20, 2002 (after November 29, 2000) and published in a non-English language, Blieske et al US '655 has no §102(e) prior art date. However, the PCT application publication, WO 03/046617, was

published on June 5, 2003, which is more than one year prior to the February 25, 2005 PCT filing date of the present application and thus qualifies as prior art under section 102(b).

As noted, independent claims 1 and 15 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 17. Claim 17 is not subject to any of the above four rejections. Accordingly, withdrawal of all the §§102/103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

In paragraph No. 8 of the Action, claims 17-20 and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants submit that claims 18-20 and 22 are patentable in their present form because claim 15, from which claims 18-20 and 22 depend, is patentable over the cited references, as discussed above.

Allowance is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

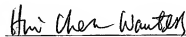
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